AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as reflected in the following listing of claims. *This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.*

1. **(Currently Amended)** A multi-portion structural component system, the system comprising:

at least a first structural portion and a second structural portion together defining an interface; ~~and~~

means for intermeshing the first structural portion with the second structural portion in a unique arrangement such that the first and second structural portions are retained in a desired orientation with respect to one another; and

a separator sheet, the separator sheet configured to be temporarily interposed between the first and second structural portions during intermeshing of the first structural portion with the second structural portion.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for intermeshing extends on the first and second structural portions along the length of the interface.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for intermeshing is proximate the interface.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in claim 1, wherein the means for intermeshing includes:

a plurality of first surface features defined proximate an inner surface of the second structural component; and

a backing member included on the first structural component, the backing member including a plurality of second surface features that at least approximately and inversely match the first surface features.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in claim 4, wherein the pluralities of first and second surface features are randomly arranged.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in claim 4, wherein the second surface features are defined in a keying material positioned on the backing member.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in claim 1, wherein the multi-portion structural component is selected from the group consisting of a column, a column base, and a column capital.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A multi-portion column assembly, comprising:

a first column portion and a second column portion that together define an interface, the second column portion including a first plurality of surface features adjacent the interface;

a backing member included on the first column portion, the backing member including a flange that extends across the interface such that the flange is proximate the first plurality of surface features; and

a keying material positioned on the flange, the keying material including a second plurality of surface features that cooperatively intermeshes with the first plurality of surface features when the first and column portions are mated such that a desired alignment between the first and second column portions is achieved, wherein at least one of the first and second plurality of surface features is defined as a result of the mating of the first and second column portions.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion column assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein the keying material is a thermal set material, and wherein the first plurality of surface features are defined in a keying material included on an inner surface of the second column portion.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion column assembly as defined in claim 9, wherein the thermal set material includes a promoter, a catalyst, a polyester resin, and a fumed silica thickener.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion column assembly as defined in claim 10, wherein the backing member is integrally formed with the first column portion.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion column assembly as defined 11, wherein the first and second pluralities of surface features are defined by compressively engaging the flange with the inner surface of the second column portion.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A method for configuring at least a first and second portion of a multi-portion structural component for assembly, the method comprising:

randomly defining a first plurality of surface features on the second portion of the structural component; and

defining a second plurality of surface features on the first portion that inversely match the first surface features such that the first surface features at least approximately intermesh with the second surface features when the first component is mated with the second component as to produce a desired alignment of the first component with respect to the second component.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 13, wherein defining the first plurality and defining the second plurality further comprises:

defining the first plurality of surface features in relation to an inner surface of the second portion of the structural component; and

defining the second plurality of surface features in relation to a flange of a backing member included on the first portion.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 14, wherein defining the first plurality and defining the second plurality further comprises:

defining the first plurality of surface features on a keying material positioned on the inner surface of the second portion; and

defining the second plurality of surface features on a keying material positioned on the flange.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 15, wherein the first plurality and second plurality of surface features are simultaneously defined by compressively engaging the keying material positioned on the flange with the keying material positioned on the inner surface of the second portion, the keying materials being pliable when the compressive engagement is begun.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 15, wherein defining the second plurality further comprises:

defining the second plurality of surface features by compressively engaging the keying material on the flange with the first plurality of surface features, the first plurality of surface features being pre-defined and hardened and the keying material on the flange being initially pliable.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 17, wherein an inner surface of the first column portion is non-planar, and wherein the backing member conforms and attaches to the non-planar first portion inner surface.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 18, wherein the backing member is composed of fiberglass saturated with a resin to enable it to conform to the non-planar first portion inner surface before hardening to a rigid form.

20. **(Previously Presented)** A method of configuring a column assembly, the method comprising:

defining first and second column portions, the second column portion including an inner surface;

defining a backing member on the first column portion such that a flange of the backing member is capable of being positioned proximate the inner surface of the second column portion;

providing a pliable keying material on the flange and on the inner surface of the second column portion; and

bringing the flange into proximity with the inner surface of the second column portion such that a first plurality of surface features are defined in the keying material of the inner surface and a second plurality of surface features are defined in the keying material of the flange, the first plurality of surface features capable of intermeshing with the second plurality of surface features such that the first and second column portions can be positioned in a desired respective orientation when the first and second pluralities of surface features are mated.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method of configuring as defined in claim 20, wherein defining the first and second pluralities of surface features further comprises:

placing a separator between the flange and the inner surface of the second column portion before the flange is brought into proximity with the inner surface.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of configuring as defined in claim 21, wherein the separator is composed of a thin-mil plastic that enables imprinting of the surface features in the keying materials.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of configuring as defined in claim 22, wherein defining the first and second pluralities of surface features further comprises:

allowing the keying materials to harden; and

removing the separator from between the first and second pluralities of surface features after hardening of the keying materials.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of configuring as defined in claim 23, further comprising:

inserting a spacer in an interface defined between the first and second column portions; and

adding filler adjacent the spacer.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method for configuring as defined in claim 24, wherein the first and second column portions remain attached across the interface at predetermined locations along the interface when the first and second column portions are defined.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The multi-portion system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the means for intermeshing substantially prevents sliding movement between the first and second structural portions along the interface.